

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 1, 2 and 4 will have been amended. Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Japanese Pub. No. 10-302328 (JP '328) and claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '328 (FIG. 3 in view of FIG. 4).

Applicants, however, respectfully traverse the above-noted rejections and submit that it is inappropriate for at least each of the following reasons.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims on these grounds, nevertheless, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 2 and 4 to clearly obviate the above noted grounds of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicants note that JP '328 fails to teach or suggest the subject matter claimed in amended claims 1, 2 and 4. In particular, claims 1, 2 and 4, as amended, recite a stamper holder including, inter alia, an outer periphery of the stamper holder having a gradually increased diameter from an end of a reverse side toward an end of the molding structure to form a sloped surface; and an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder, which is complementary

to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole, has a sloped shape.

Applicants submit that the embodiments of JP '328, alone or in any proper combination, lack any disclosure of the aforementioned features.

The Examiner appears to acknowledge that JP '328 does not disclose an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder, which is complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper, being sloped (see Page 7, lines 16-22 of the Official Action). However, the Examiner takes the position that that claims 1, 2 and 4 (as previously presented) only require that a surface of the stamper holder be sloped, and that the shape of the corresponding surfaces of the stamper and the holder be entirely complementary (see Page 7, lines 18-22 of the Official Action).

Applicants further submit that it is clear, from the present amendment, that it is an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder, which is complementary to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole, that has a sloped shape. This is very different structurally from JP '328 in FIG. 3, which at most discloses a *part* of the inner peripheral surface of the stamper configured to be sloped, i.e. part of the stamper holder that engages stamper 111 is a axially extending surface. Additionally, the stamper holder of a feature of an embodiment of the present disclosure, has an entire area instead of a part of the periphery contact the stamper, thereby allowing for much easier centering and further securement of the stamper. Thus, JP '328 lacks any teaching of an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder, which is complementary to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole, having a sloped shape.

Applicants note that another feature of an embodiment of the present invention, as recited in claims 3 and 5, is to provide a stamper holder *configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface*. Applicants note that the aforementioned feature allows for reduced wear of the stamper, prevention of displacement of the stamper during molding and positioning of the stamper with a high accuracy, resulting in a high quality substrate (see Specification page 18, lines 1-6 and 20-26).

Applicants submit that JP '328, FIG. 3, lacks any disclosure of the recited combination of elements, including the advantages of having a stamper holder configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface.

Applicants further submit that dependent claims 3 and 5 are at least patentable due to their respective dependencies from claims 2 and 4 for the reasons noted above. In this regard, Applicants note that the Examiner has provided no explanation or motivation for supplying the above-noted deficiencies in the teachings of JP '328. Applicants further submit that FIG. 4 of JP '328 does not provide any teachings which could reasonably be characterized as curing the above-noted deficiencies in the teachings of the embodiment disclosed in FIG. 3 of JP '328. In this regard, Applicants submit that FIG. 4 of JP '328 does not disclose an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder, which is complementary to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole, having a sloped shape.

In view of the amendments and arguments herein, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 2 and 4 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent

claims 3 and 5, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claims 2 and 4, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims made in this amendment, and which have not been made to overcome the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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